

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **HB 2274 - SB 2431**

February 4, 2004

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates *The State Park Funding Act of 2004* as follows:

- Establishes a dedicated fund, the *State Park Fund*, for the Division of Parks in the Department of Environment and Conservation. All funds sent to the State Treasurer from the operation of state park facilities from the payment of fees, fines, penalties, and forfeitures arising from the laws of this state pertaining to state parks shall be placed in this fund.
- Designates three categories of state park facilities for purposes of this act:
  1. Facilities that charge no admission fee;
  2. Areas that are designated historical areas, museum areas, or natural areas; and
  3. Recreation and lodging for fee facilities, including but not limited to resort facilities, campgrounds, golf courses, hotels, cabins, and inns.
- Authorizes the Division of Parks to assess and collect a per vehicle user fee beginning on January 1, 2005, in all state parks with the exception of the Tennessee Bicentennial Mall, and any other state park certified by the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation not to be suitable for the collection of a fee. Each park would have a collection point for the fee. Upon payment, each motor vehicle operator would be issued a dated permit. Allows the Commissioner to set the fees based on an amount deemed necessary to make state parks self-sufficient.
- States the legislative intent that all appropriations go to the State Park Fund and the Division of Parks become financially self-sufficient no later than FY2007-2008. If all such facilities become self-sufficient, all revenues generated pursuant to this act shall then be dedicated to the retirement of state park bonded indebtedness.
- Requires an annual State Park Fund Report to the General Assembly by March 1, 2005 and every March thereafter.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant**

**Increase State Revenues - Exceeds \$1,000,000/State Park Fund**

**Other Fiscal Impact:**

**All interest earnings for the State Park Fund remain with that fund and any funds remaining at the end of the year, from any source, shall not revert to the General Fund, but would remain in the State Park Fund.**

**Shifts General Fund state appropriations of approximately \$30,682,200 for FY 04-05 and \$28,967,000 for FY 05-06 to the State Park Fund.**

Estimate assumes:

- appropriations of approximately \$30,682,200 for FY 04-05 and \$28,967,000 for FY 05-06 will shift to the State Park Fund.
- an increase in state revenues from additional fees. The amount will depend on the fee established by the department and the impact such fee has on the number of visitors to state parks.
- a shift in funds deposited in the Natural Resources Trust Fund to the State Park Fund.
- any costs associated with providing an annual report to the General Assembly can be handled with existing staff and resources.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a stylized "W".

James W. White, Executive Director